

PNDF-01221

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of

Ken-ichi Nakaya

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Unknown

For: TAPE OPTICAL FIBER CORD WITH OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

4. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein, in the tape fiber, the region in which said plurality of optical fibers have been separated into a predetermined number of optical fiber units which is smaller in number than said plurality of optical fibers, has been covered with a protective tube.
6. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.

7. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.

8. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the protective tube has been fixed to one end of a case containing the rearrangement section.

9. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the protective tube has been fixed within a case containing the rearrangement section.

12. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein only one end of the protective tube has been fixed.

16. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube comprises a flame-retardant material.

17. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the fiber array on its fixation side.

18. The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber.

**Please add claims 19 - 23 as follows:**

- - 19. (New) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 2, wherein, in the tape fiber, the region in which said plurality of optical fibers have been separated into a predetermined number of optical fiber units which is smaller in number than said plurality of optical fibers, has been covered with a protective tube.

20. (New) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 2, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.

21. (New) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.

22. (New) 18. The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 2, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber.

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23. (New) 18. The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber. - -

**REMARKS**

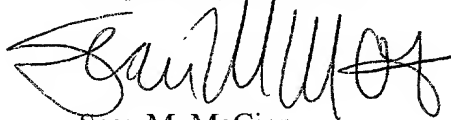
Claims 4, 6-9, 12, and 16-18 have been amended to delete multiple-dependency and claims 19-23 have been added accordingly.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean M. McGinn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean M. McGinn

Registration No.: 34,386

Date: February 21, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the claims:**

4. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein, in the tape fiber, the region in which said plurality of optical fibers have been separated into a predetermined number of optical fiber units which is smaller in number than said plurality of optical fibers, has been covered with a protective tube.
6. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.
7. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.
8. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the protective tube has been fixed to one end of a case containing the rearrangement section.
9. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the

protective tube has been fixed within a case containing the rearrangement section.

12. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein only one end of the protective tube has been fixed.

16. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein the protective tube [is formed of] comprises a flame-retardant material.

17. (Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the fiber array on its fixation side.

18. The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array [is] comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber.